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Rough Draft of Reply to DFI Request

1. CIA has made use of Antwerp manifest material for various intelligence support activities, both of a continuing nature (for inter-agency committees) and for ad hoc inquiries. The [redacted] Antwerp manifest material is being carded in the recently established International Trade Register, <sup>(ITR) [redacted] CIA</sup> The Agency is now in a position, ~~therefore~~, to comply with the Department's request for screening the manifest material for additional information on a periodic basis. <sup>However,</sup> But the nature of the manifest material and certain technical aspects of the ITR system limit the results that can be obtained.

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2. Manifest information for vessels leaving Antwerp is summarized, on a periodic basis, by the U.S. Consulate General in Antwerp in Foreign Service Despatches. These summaries actually improve on the raw manifest data by selecting the shipments of strategic importance and annotating the entries with references to pertinent Departmental correspondence, license application investigations, and ICDV checks. Photographic or other reproductions of the original manifests are forwarded, in the document <sup>Import/Export Verification Center</sup> groups listed in the respective consular summaries, via Brussels under

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25X1X4 [REDACTED] This office has repeatedly encouraged continuation

of the transmission of both the consular summaries and the [REDACTED] materials 25X1X4  
from Antwerp because of standing requirements for the aforementioned intel-  
ligence support activities.

3. The sorting and summarizing of data introduced into the ITR can  
be accomplished through a relatively simple machine operation. Periodic  
summary analyses of the Antwerp manifests can be made available by the  
Agency for use of <sup>state</sup> ~~the Department~~ beginning 1 <sup>May</sup> ~~April~~ 1952.

4. There are some problems, however, which might affect the useful-  
ness of the proposed summary analyses. As a rule, the Antwerp material is  
received in the Agency approximately three months after the ships involved  
have cleared the port of Antwerp. Furthermore, the Department's memorandum  
requests classification of manifest entries according to International  
Lists. The ITR classifies commodities according to the U.S. Schedule B,  
which does not mesh perfectly with the generally broader categories of the  
International Lists. Many manifest entries also have been found too general  
to permit reliable Schedule or List classifications. The Agency may thus

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not be in a position to supply significant reliable information in addition

to what is now available to the Department. *For example a spot check of the manifests concerning Antwerp departures between 20 Aug - 10 Nov 1957 showed 18% of the items as clearly appearing on lists I & II, 34% as clearly not on said lists, and 48% insufficiently described to ascertain whether or not on these lists.*

5. A suggestion has been included in the Department's memorandum that serial numbers, and similar identifications might provide additional help in the periodic analysis of the manifests. After a spot check of available manifests, it has been found that these identifications, which appear in

25X1X4 the original [REDACTED] material, but not in the consular summaries, would not add significantly to the amount or reliability of present information.

6. CIA therefore is in a position to supply to the Department on a periodic basis an analysis of all commodities appearing in Antwerp manifest material which can be identified according to U.S. export control lists. Furthermore, a compilation can be made of commodities not clearly identifiable by virtue of the manifest entry. The ITR processing has been initiated and is now current, and it is suggested that machine-results be made available to the Department on a trial basis at bi-monthly intervals.

7. To our knowledge the Department of Commerce has not processed Antwerp manifest information on a continuing basis in a form that would

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meet the Department's needs. Recently, however, OIT, Department of Commerce, prepared a special compilation of information gathered from Antwerp manifest material which covered chiefly a seven-month period and was included as Tab E in the Preliminary Report of the Transit Free Port Study Group of EDAC (ED/SG D-3 24 March 1952).

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